Nova Scotia Environment
Statement of Mandate
2013-2014

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment

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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment

We are pleased to present a Statement of Mandate for Nova Scotia Environment for 2013-2014 that will contribute to the government's core priorities in the upcoming year.

The Department's mandate reflects our guiding pieces of legislation: the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, the *Environment Act*, the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, the *Special Places Protection Act*, the *Water Resources Protection Act*, the *Anti-Idling Act*, and the *Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*.

Nova Scotia Environment works with other departments, governments and public and private stakeholders in fulfilling our mission to value, protect and enhance the environment. This collaboration allows us to deliver a broad range of programs and services, develop environmental stewards, and offer a dynamic and engaging work environment for our staff.

Our priorities for 2013-2014 include continuing to implement changes to the *Environment Act* and regulations to focus resources on higher-risk activities. We will also work cooperatively with other departments to achieve the sustainability commitments of the recently amended *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*.

This year, other initiatives that will support government's priorities include continuing our work to legally protect 12 per cent of our province's lands by 2015, reviewing the province's solid waste regulations and programs, and continuing to build on the progress made in improving and protecting drinking water for all Nova Scotians.

The Department will continue to work with our partners in 2013-2014 to carry out our mandate to protect our environment and the health of all Nova Scotians while contributing to the province's sustainable economic growth.

Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment

Sara Jane Snook
Deputy Minister of Environment

1. Mandate/Mission/Vision

Mandate

The mandate of Nova Scotia Environment is to:

- support and promote the protection, enhancement, and prudent use of the environment (*Environment Act*);
- provide for the establishment, management, protection and use of wilderness areas (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act*);
- provide for the preservation, protection, and study of ecological sites that are considered important parts of the natural heritage of the Province and promote understanding and appreciation of same among the people of the Province (*Special Places Protection Act*);
- conserve and allocate water resources to ensure long-term self-sufficiency and utilization to the greatest benefit of the population and ecosystem (*Water Resources Protection Act*);
- promote the interconnections between the health of the economy, the environment and the people of the Province and promote the Province's environmental assets as essential to the long-term prosperity of the Province (*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*);
- promote the reduction of unnecessary idling (*Anti-idling Act*);
- reduce human and environmental exposure to non-essential pesticides (*Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*).

Vision

Nova Scotia will have a healthy environment that sustains our communities and supports our economy.

Mission

Nova Scotia Environment provides leadership through science based decision making and regulation to ensure that our environment is valued, protected and improved.

2. Nova Scotia Government and Nova Scotia Environment Priorities*

***Some of the examples/priorities used in this Statement of Mandate may support more than one government priority.**

Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means

Nova Scotia Environment has recently completed an organizational strategy, which supports government's priority of getting back to balance and ensuring government lives within its means. This re-alignment allows us to focus on both environmental protection and government priorities by delivering efficient programs and services that support sustainable economic growth and environmental sustainability.

In 2013, the Department will continue to review its legislation, regulations and policies, and streamline programs and processes to make them more efficient and focus resources in areas of highest environmental risk. These efforts will help us ensure the most sustainable, cost-effective delivery of our services in the coming years.

Create good jobs and grow the economy

Nova Scotia Environment's work is closely linked to economic outcomes through the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*. In 2012, the *Act* underwent its first five-year review. The focus of the review was to improve and strengthen the linkages between the environment and the economy. The Department worked collaboratively with other departments, as well as the Minister's Roundtable on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity, and consulted with the public and external stakeholders to develop amendments which were approved by the Legislative Assembly in the fall of 2012.

These amendments include the addition of new goals which, combined with the existing goals, showcase and strengthen the interconnectedness of the environment and economy. The overall long-term objective of the *Act* is to achieve sustainable prosperity.

The amendments to the *Act* also include a systems approach whereby all departments would be involved in meeting the commitments of the *Act*, and new goals around cleaner sources and sustainable uses of energy, local food production and consumption, and a strategy to advance the growth of the green economy.

Other ongoing initiatives of the Department that will strengthen economic growth include a renewed approach to solid waste management which will increase diversion of resources into value-added markets, and the new contaminated sites regulatory framework by clarifying the rules for cleaning up old contaminated sites to enable future redevelopment. As well, protecting at least 12 per cent of provincial lands will contribute to economic growth and include supporting the outdoor recreation industry and helping to brand Nova Scotia as a clean, green place in which to live, work, and do business.

Make health care better for you and your family

Nova Scotia Environment has a mandate to ensure environmental protection, which contributes to the protection of human health across the province. Many of the Department's legislation, regulations and policies are aimed at improving and sustaining human health. Sustainable environmental management is closely connected to healthy communities and a healthier population.

Inspectors with the Department work in communities around the province ensuring regulations are upheld, many of which directly protect human health. The Department's regulations ensure safe public drinking water supplies, good air quality, controlled use of pesticides and effective management of a range of other activities that can impact health. These initiatives are preventative in nature and may help to reduce the burden on the healthcare system.

The Department's ongoing work to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions and pollutants, monitoring and measuring of air quality, working with Nova Scotia Power and continued implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan remain priorities for 2013-2014. Other priorities and strategic actions include the Drinking Water Program Renewal, continuing to implement Water for Life: Nova Scotia's Water Resource Management Strategy, and working with the federal government on federal regulations related to wastewater treatment facilities and coal-fired electricity regulations. These can all contribute to positive public health outcomes.

Make life more affordable and break the cycle of poverty

Nova Scotia Environment has a mandate to ensure environmental protection. Through its legislation, collaboration with other departments, municipalities, federal government, public and stakeholder consultation and engagement, the Department works to ensure that Nova Scotians have safe, healthy, and prosperous communities in which to work and live.

A continuing priority for Nova Scotia Environment is the Environmental Home Assessment Program. Through this program, the Department conducts educational home assessments, and provides septic system repair/replacement grants to low-income homeowners whose septic systems are failing.

Domestic fuel oil spills are an expensive problem for homeowners and businesses and can have significant environmental consequences. We are working with rural homeowners on education and inspection of domestic oil tank systems to reduce incidents of oil leakage. Contaminated sites regulations will facilitate timely cleanups, and new initiatives on domestic tanks will seek to reduce spill occurrences and associated costs.

3. Performance Measures

Our performance measures are intended to demonstrate the progress we make in achieving our mandate and government's priorities.

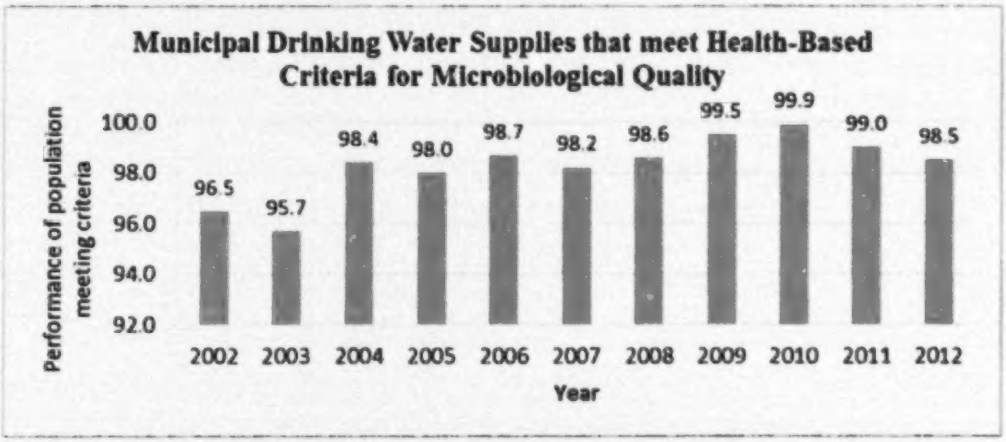
MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENT ACT*	
OUTCOME	Clean air
MEASURE	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions (**tonnes**) by Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI)
DATA – BASE YEAR	**1995 cap - 145,000 tonnes**
TARGET	**Annual Target:** NSPI to achieve a level of SO_2 emissions no greater than **72,500 tonnes by 2010**. This represents a 50% reduction in SO_2 emissions from their 1995 cap. **Ultimate Target:** NSPI to achieve a level of SO_2 emissions no greater than **60,900 tonnes by 2015**, and no greater than **36,250 tonnes by 2020** (75% less than their 1995 cap).
TRENDS	131,677 tonnes (2002) 137,300 tonnes (2003) 136,021 tonnes (2004) 103,732 tonnes (2005) 106,616 tonnes (2006) 108,544 tonnes (2007) 107,472 tonnes (2008) 100,868 tonnes (2009) 61,904 tonnes (2010) 64,812 tonnes (2011) 66,260 tonnes (2012)
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENT ACT*	
OUTCOME	Clean air
MEASURE	Annual total nitrogen oxide (NO_x) air emissions **(tonnes)** by NSPI
DATA – BASE YEAR	26,706 (2000)
TARGET	**Annual Target:** NSPI's annual NO_x emissions cap starting in **2009 is 21,365 tonnes**, or 20% less than the base year. **Ultimate Target:** NSPI to achieve a level of NO_x emissions no greater than **19,288 tonnes by 2015,** and no greater than **14,955 tonnes by 2020** (44% less than base year emissions).
TRENDS	30,280 tonnes (2002) 32,067 tonnes (2003) 33,499 tonnes (2004) 32,300 tonnes (2005) 28,087 tonnes (2006) 25,853 tonnes (2007) 21,381 tonnes (2008) 17,075 tonnes (2009) 18,230 tonnes (2010) 18,013 tonnes (2011) 15,640 tonnes (2012)
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENT ACT*	
OUTCOME	Clean air
MEASURE	Annual total mercury air emissions (kg) from NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations
DATA – BASE YEAR	**267 kg (2000)**
TARGET	Maintain the emission cap for NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations. 168 kg - 2005 cap 110 kg - 2010 cap 100 kg - 2011 cap 100 kg - 2012 cap 85 kg - 2013 cap 65 kg - 2014 cap 35 kg - 2020 cap
TRENDS	185 kg (2001) 163 kg (2002) 158 kg (2003) 170 kg (2004) 105 kg (2005) 162 kg (2006) 156 kg (2007) 163 kg (2008) 140 kg (2009) 81.5 kg (2010) 94.6 kg (2011) 93.9 kg (2012)
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENT ACT*	
OUTCOME	Clean drinking water
MEASURE	Percentage of population served by municipal drinking water supplies that meet health-based criteria for microbiological quality
DATA – BASE YEAR	**96.5 % of population (2001)**
TARGET	All municipal drinking water supplies meet the health-based criteria for microbiological quality at all times during the calendar year.

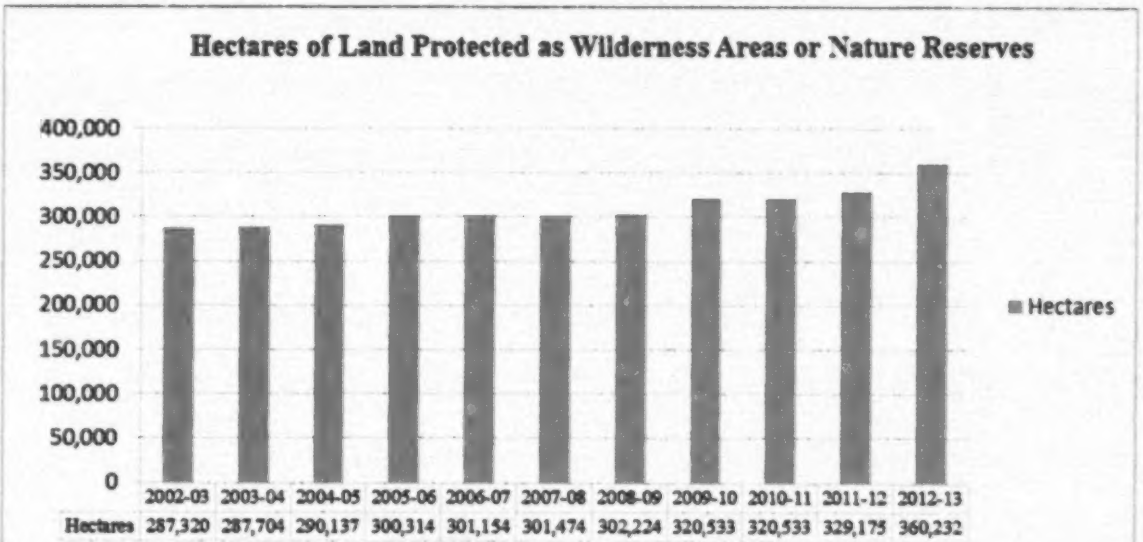
TRENDS



STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Continue to implement Water For Life: Nova Scotia's Water Resource Management Strategy • Review how Nova Scotia implemented the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry and identify areas for continuous improvement • Update the Drinking Water Strategy • Support development of municipal water supply protection plans

MANDATE: *WILDERNESS AREAS PROTECTION ACT & SPECIAL PLACES PROTECTION ACT*	
OUTCOME	Protected natural areas
MEASURE	Total hectares of land protected through Nova Scotia Environment program options. (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act, Special Places Protection Act* – ecological sites)
DATA – BASE YEAR	**287,028 ha (2001)**
TARGET	**Annual:** Increase the hectares of land under various protection options. **Note:** **Government has set a target to protect at least 12% (662,360 ha) of Nova Scotia's total land mass by 2015. This includes NSE options (nature reserves and wilderness areas), as well as other qualifying legal protection.**

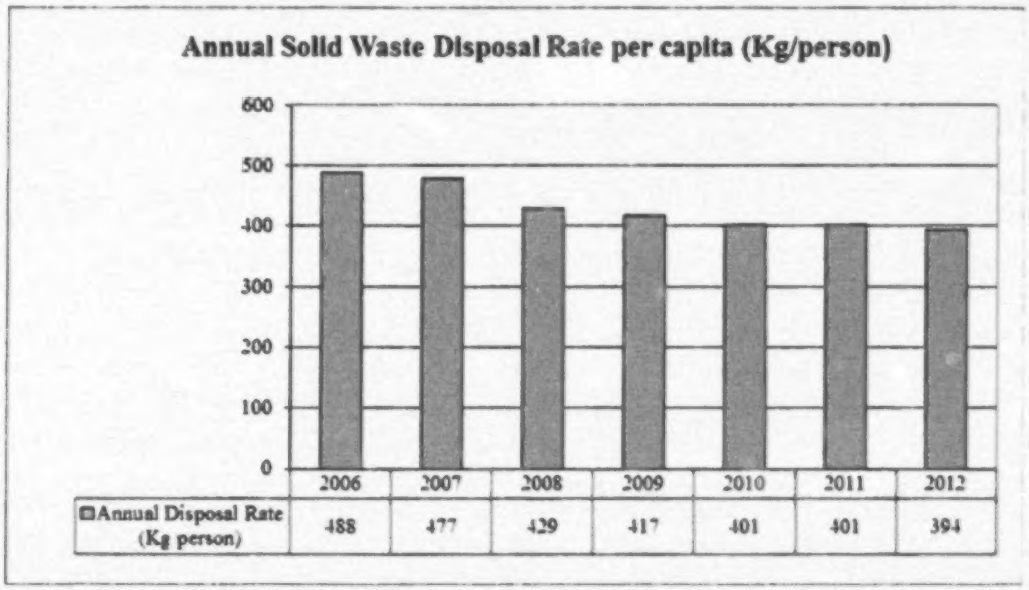
TRENDS



STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	Advance process for protecting at least 12% of total land mass of the province by: • making and supporting strategic land acquisitions • addressing key mitigation and socio-economic impacts • releasing a draft protected areas proposal for broad public consultation • submitting a final protected areas plan for government approval • enacting legislative protection by finalizing boundaries and legal descriptions of lands

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENT ACT* AND *ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT*	
OUTCOME	Responsible waste management
MEASURE	Annual solid waste disposal rate per capita* (Kg/person) * Provincial per capita average determined from achievement reported by the seven NS municipal solid waste regions. **Note**: Prior to 2012-2013, the performance measure used was a comparison of Nova Scotia's disposal rate to other Atlantic Provinces and national averages. The source of the data was Statistics Canada. The data is only available every two years and there is a two-year delay between year of data and publishing of data.
DATA – BASE YEAR	**488kg/capita (2006)**
TARGET	Achieve a disposal rate of no greater than 300 kilograms per person by 2015

TRENDS



*Provincial per capita average determined from achievement reported by the seven Nova Scotia municipal solid waste regions.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	Commenced regulatory review of solid waste management to identify program efficiencies

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT*	
OUTCOME	Economy-wide Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) must be at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 *(EGSPA)*
MEASURE	Annual provincial GHG emissions, as measured by the national inventory, and verified reporting by NSPI, compared with 1990 emission levels
DATA – BASE YEAR	19.1 M tonnes (1990)
TARGET	17. 1 M tonnes or less GHG emissions by 2020
TRENDS	23.3 M tonnes (2004) 23.7 M tonnes (2005) 20.9 M tonnes (2006) 21.9 M tonnes (2007) 20.5 M tonnes (2008) 20.0 M tonnes (2009) 20.2 M tonnes (2010) 20.2 M tonnes (2011 estimate) – final data expected in June 2013 • As of 2009, our GHG data will combine National Inventory data with verified GHG Reporting from NSPI. • Electricity sector GHG emissions are declining (from 10.2 MT in 2007 to 8.6 MT in 2011).
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Increase understanding of GHG sinks, sources, and opportunities in the NS forestry and agriculture sectors • Complete commitments of the 2009 Climate Change Action Plan (currently over 90% complete) • Complete an equivalency agreement with the federal government with respect to their proposed coal-fired electricity regulation • Monitor and contribute to the development of federal GHG regulations for industry (including oil & gas, cement, pulp & paper) • Co-lead the development of a provincial sustainable transportation strategy • Incorporate GHG emissions as a consideration in Environmental Assessments of large industrial projects

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT*	
OUTCOME	Meet the Canada-Wide Standard (CWS) for particulate matter
MEASURE	Ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 = less than 2.5 microns), measured annually and averaged over 3 consecutive years
DATA – BASE YEAR	**HRM: 14 µg/m^3 (2003-05)**
TARGET	30 µg/m^3 or less of PM2.5, within a 24-hour averaging time, by 2010
TRENDS	HRM: 14 µg/m^3 (2004-06) 16 µg/m^3 (2005-07) 15 µg/m^3 (2006-08) 13µg/m^3 (2007-09) 16µg/m^3 (2008-10) The 2009-2011 data is expected to be available by the end of February 2013.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Working with emitters to reduce the emissions (e.g. - sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide) that contribute to the formation of particulate matter • Maintain the provincial ambient air monitoring network to allow for the measuring of achievement

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT*	
OUTCOME	Meet the Canada-Wide Standard for ozone
MEASURE	Ambient ground level ozone, averaged over 3 years
DATA – BASE YEAR	**HRM:** **57ppb (2000-02)** **CBRM:** **49ppb (2000-02)**
TARGET	65 ppb ground ozone or less, with 8 hour averaging, by 2010
TRENDS	**HRM:** 53 ppb (2001-03) 51 ppb (2002-04) 46 ppb (2003-05) 48 ppb (2004-06) 47 ppb (2005-07) 51 ppb (2006-08) 52 ppb (2007-09) 52 ppb (2008-10) 51 ppb (2009-2011) **CBRM:** 49 ppb (2001-03) 46 ppb (2002-04) 46 ppb (2003-05) 48 ppb (2004-06) 50 ppb (2005-07) 55 ppb (2006-08) 55 ppb (2007-09) 53 ppb (2008-10) 50 ppb (2009-2011
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Working with emitters to reduce the emissions (e.g. nitrogen oxide that contribute to the formation of ozone) Maintain the provincial ambient air monitoring network to allow for the measuring of achievement

MANDATE: *ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT*	
OUTCOME	All municipal wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017
MEASURE	Percentage of wastewater treatment facilities that provide at least primary treatment.
DATA – BASE YEAR	**90% (2009)**
TARGET	All municipal wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017.
TRENDS	90% (2010) 91% (2011) 92% (2012)
STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET	• Work with municipalities to implement the Canada-wide Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) Strategy • Complete new provincial wastewater standard • Work with federal government to discuss roles and responsibilities related to federal wastewater regulations

4. Budget Context

Nova Scotia Environment			
	2012-2013 Estimate	**2012-2013 Forecast**	**2013-2014 Estimate**
Program & Service Area	($thousands)	($thousands)	($thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:			
Administration	1,147	737	787
Policy and Corporate Services	4,462	4,696	4,774
Environmental Monitoring and Compliance	12,243	11,515	11,079
Environmental Science and Program Management	2,881	2,811	3,542
Sustainability and Innovation	5,652	4,975	4,772
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	26,385	24,734	24,954
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenues, Fees and Recoveries	5,355	5,232	4,814
TCA Purchase Requirements	6,730	6,702	3,270
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	268	233	256